

D. Hiller, Forest J. Jostes, Casey Sheehan, Gerardo Moreno, William W. Labadie Jr.

Felix M. Delgreco, Justin W. Johnson, Adolfo C. Carballo, Lawrence S. Colton, Wesley C. Fortenberry, Michael A. McGlothlin, Edward W. Carman, Stacey C. Brandon, Arthur L. Felder, Patrick W. Kordsmeier, Billy J. Orton, Kenneth A. Molton, Abraham D. Pena-Medina, Kendall Thomas, Adam W. Estep, Ervin Caradine Jr., Jeremy L. Drexler, Bradley G. Kritzer, James E. Marshall, Hesley Box Jr., Rene Ledesma. I send my prayers, my sympathy, and my deep gratitude to their families. Their nation will not forget their sacrifice.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, we should take a moment to remember the young men and women who are fighting bravely for the freedom and democracy of this nation and others. At the same time we must remember the families of those men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

All Texans fighting for a just cause will forever be ingrained in my mind, especially those who have become our fallen heroes:

Spc. Zeferino E. Colunga, Belville, Texas.

Pfc. James D. Parker, Bryan, Texas.

2nd Lt. Jonathan D. Rozier, Katy, Texas.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BRIAN WRIGHT
OF HOYT LAKES, MINNESOTA

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 4, 2004

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and express my profound appreciation to Brian Wright of Hoyt Lakes, Min-

nesota who spent his junior year of high school at the Congressional Page School and worked as a congressional page for the U.S. House of Representatives. As Brian completes his page experience in Washington, I want to acknowledge and thank Brian and the entire Page Class of 2003–2004 for their outstanding work and superb service to the House of Representatives throughout the school year.

Congressional pages fulfill a multitude of tasks to ensure that the U.S. Congress operates effectively. Throughout the school year, Brian was responsible for delivering materials throughout the U.S. Capitol, answering phones in the Members cloak room, relaying messages Members of Congress, and preparing the House floor for session; Brian fulfilled these important responsibilities with enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication.

I know Brian will continue to apply the same dedication and energy to all his future endeavors in the future and I wish him great success.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to extend praise and remembrance to those who have given their lives in the defense of this nation.

We stand before this House, not in an effort to politicize the ultimate sacrifice so many have endured, but rather to express a collective gratitude for these brave soldier's willingness to embrace the virtues of America and band together under this nation's flag.

For as long as this nation has known war, we have embraced the heroes it has produced. Americans have rightfully noted the honor and nobility of courage under hostile fire and thanked those who perished in their defense. I believe Congress has a duty to do so as well; not simply as a body of legislators, but more importantly as a community of friends, neighbors, parents and Americans.

Since the United States was attacked on September 11, 2001, our nation and the world have changed a great deal. The way many Americans view the global climate are rooted, for many, in the context of our nation's defense against those who wish us ill. Never, since the fall of communism, has it been so abundantly clear that an ethos exists, which is loath to accept the freedoms and prosperity we hold sacred in this nation.

With this realization, came a growing need for men and women willing to take up arms in an effort to protect our American way of life and the freedoms so many of our ancestors died to entrench. Many have embraced this call as members of our active duty armed forces and the Reserve/National Guard. For that, this nation is grateful. The selfless actions of these heroes have removed them from their families, businesses and homeland to fight, so that others may experience the liberty awaiting our troops upon safe return to America.

For some, however, there will be no return. This inevitability of conflict motivates us today and echoes the reminder that freedom is not given away and our national security is not achieved without sacrifice. We cannot forget this, nor can we assert that honoring those who have fallen is political posturing. It is an obligation for members of this body to show Americans we have not ignored their sacrifices.

I consider it a privilege to join my colleagues in offering this contrite praise and remembrance as Memorial Day approaches. We must never forget or diminish the sacrifices of those who gave everything for this nation.

I urge my friends in this House to join in thanking those fallen heroes including, from the State of New York: Pfc. Tamario Burkett (USMC), Pvt. David Evans (USA), Cpl. Bernard Gooden (USMC), Pfc. Gregory Huxley (USA), Lance Cpl. Eric Orłowski (USMC), Cpl. Robert Rodriguez (USMC), Spc. Rasheed Sahib (USA), SSgt. Riayan Tejada (USMC), Lance Cpl. William White (USMC) and Sgt. Eugene Williams (USA). Their courage over the past two years and throughout the centuries has enabled this republic to endure tragedy and face the future with optimism.